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After Debate, Road Contract Awarded Without Bid

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - The board of selectmen, by extending a contract from 2011, will be awarding this year's phase of the Sandown Road System Action Plan to Busby Construction.

Busby has been awarded the last two phases of Sandown's major road work, and on Monday, June 18, director of Public Work Artie Genualdo and Patrick Colburn of town engineer Keach-Nordstrom Associates met with the board to see about waiving the town's bid policy in order to give this year's phase to the Atkinson company as well.

The justification behind the board's decision to waive that policy is predi-

cated on saved time and money. Busby, according to Colburn, has agreed to honor last year's prices for work, and because the town can skip the bid process and the need to draw up new contracts, the projects can be started about six weeks earlier than otherwise would be possible.

Colburn estimated that about 50 percent of this year's work would be laying asphalt and as such, the price of that commodity would be crucial to the cost of the project. Because the cost of asphalt has increased since 2011, he estimated the town could save about 5 percent on the total cost of the job by sticking with Busby and its agreement to hold 2011's price.

To buttress their sugges-

tion, Genualdo and Colburn also pointed to Busby's proven track record and the fact that other municipalities have chosen to extend contracts in the manner suggested.

Cost savings on Keach-Nordstrom's end would come by avoiding the need to draw up the legal portions of the contract, as those were already in place. Though hesitant to put a figure on that savings, Colburn estimated it at 25 to 33 percent.

Hans Nicolaisen was the only selectmen to vote against the move. He argued that the town had a bid policy for a reason, and wondered how the town would get a good price when, by looking at this year's war-

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School Board Votes Against Replacing Assistant Principal

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Arguments flared on both sides of the question of whether to hire an Assistant Principal to replace Jennifer Scarpati at Hampstead Central School, as an overflow crowd attended the School Board meeting, with many left to stand in the hallway straining to hear the exchanges.

Scarpati leaves at the end of June for a position in another district.

The issue at the Tuesday night, June 12, meeting focused on whether Scarpati's departure provided the opportunity to eliminate the assistant principal position at Central School for both monetary savings and to address declining enroll-

ment, and those who saw not filling the job as damaging the quality of the educational offering. Yet another group questioned who would have to pick up Scarpati's duties.

Despite the emotion, a majority of the board voted against filling the position. Greg Hoppla made a motion to fill the post, seconded by chairwoman Judy Graham. The 2-3 vote saw Natalie Gallo, Jaye Dimando and Jim Stewart voting against filling the position.

Those who favored replacing Scarpati argued that the voters had approved a budget that included the position, expressed concerns over the burden the vacancy would place on Principal Dillard Collins and others, and said it would diminish the avail-

ability of help and resources for teachers. Others worried it would cause a lesser educational product that would be reflected in reduced property values, and still others expressed the concern that teachers would leave.

Among those who favored not filling the post were Mary Stenson and Rick Gaudette, who both pointed to what they considered excessive spending and excessive budget amounts on the school side and saw this as a good first step in correcting the problem.

With the reduced population at Central School, state Department of Education regulations do not mandate an assistant principal for that school, which has under 500 Kindergarten

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SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK Katiana Kable was one of the many fifth-graders who participated in the annual Sandown Central Lip Sync Show. Kable banged out a high energy version of "Hit Me Wih Your Best Shot" with the help of some of her classmates. See story on page 2.

Photo by Chris Paul

Oleson and Weider Disagree on Highway Operations

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - A long-brewing disagreement between selectman Mike Weider and road agent Mike Oleson about highway department operations came to the forefront at the board of selectmen's latest meeting on June 14. The argument is a months old issue centering on replacing a couple of failed culverts.

In August of last year, Oleson was directed by the board of selectmen to bid out the replacement of a culvert on Pheasant Run because the fix was estimated to come in above the town's \$5,000 bid policy threshold. Oleson has long argued that bidding the project is a waste of the town's money and came in last week to argue it again.

Oleson's practice, traditional among the town's

past road agents, has been to use his personal equipment with the highway department's workers and equipment to complete small projects. Weider is against that practice.

Oleson argued that it's the least expensive and most efficient way to get such projects done, but last week, Weider charged Oleson with gaming the system for his own benefit.

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Sandown Central Rocks with Annual Lip-Sync Show

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Each year, Central School finishes out the year with a rock and roll concert. And the line-up is impressive for a small town. This year, among many, KISS showed up, along with Pat Benatar, the Go-Go's, Ozzy Osbourne, Journey, Neil Diamond, Bobby Darin and Elvis.

And they put on two good shows.

The fifth graders put on the lip-sync performances dressed up like rock stars. They strut their stuff and their performances are always well-received by

peer, teacher and family alike. It's a long-held tradition at the school and one the kids take seriously.

Fifth grade teacher Stan Stone said that each time he saw the kids perform their act, they got better. They feed off other friends' work, and up until the actual performances in front of big audiences, they're looking to improve their act.

The girls lean more toward choreographed dance routines while the boys are often more rambunctious and a little less polished. The kids often act out scenes depicted in the lyrics. The lip sync aspect lets both those kids who are

a little shy about getting up in front of a crowd and the natural performers show off in a big, gutsy way.

Amelia Young led her crew in singing "Old Time Rock and Roll." The diminutive fifth grader had a serious amount of swagger, and she wasn't alone. Performer Kyle Errico played it up during "Soul Man," Josh Frye threw some accomplished jumping karate kicks during his group's take on "Kung Fu Fighting," Tommy Dawley was a believable surprised bather during his group's "Splish Splash," and during "Jailhouse Rock," Kassidy Pelletier showed off some animated dance moves along

with her fellow cop and chaingangers Elizabeth Dougherty, Danny Broadhead and Grace Kripp-Burns.

The kids put a lot of time and effort into their routines. Teachers always say that they're practicing on the playground and in the hallways, and some take their recess time to work out routines with input from their teachers. Others get together after school for hours of work.

Principal Douglas Rolph is always impressed with the kids work.

The daytime show saw the school community along with a couple dozen or so parents watching the action, but it's a whole different scene at night. Attendees are routinely turned away at the door because the gym simply can't hold them all. Not only do family members and friends come out to see the kids, but former students return to see the new crop.

And to cap the night, the fifth grade teachers and Rolph always put on a show of their own, to the great delight of the kids. This year they did the Ghostbusters theme. Rolph, in full ghost get-up, swooped

among the crowd as the teachers tried to capture Police, who showed up to him. Eventually he was added a little more drama.



Nyk Lytle, left, and Robert Vaughn bang out a solo to "We Will Rock You."



Jordan Cedeno and Sophie Geisler perform "Vacation" with Mia Cotroneo and Kelsie Messina, not pictured.



Josh Frye shows off some Martial Arts moves as his group syncs to "Kung Fu Fighting."

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Praise Offered for Chester Academy Music Program

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Music teacher Kurt Schweiss took time at the school board's most recent meeting to update them on the curriculum of the music department. Schweiss highlighted what he and fellow music teacher Beth Vanderhoek do annually and received nothing but praise from board members.

"It's clear that this isn't your job," said board member Mike Romick after the presentation. "It's your passion."

Schweiss and Vanderhoek came to Chester Academy five years ago, and since then have been building up a talented band and chorus and giving regular music students a wealth of information. And while the students' focus is music, it's just one of many skills and lessons they're learning through class participation.

Music students are busy, according to Schweiss. He outlined the focus of each grade level's music class activity, and said that while music is at the core, the classes also incorporate movement, stories, listening and dancing - from first graders learning how to keep a steady beat and read basic music notation to seventh graders learning the guitar and performing solo for their classmates.

Currently there is no eighth grade music class.

Schweiss and Vanderhoek incorporate a wealth of interdisciplinary activity into their classrooms, a goal of many at Chester Academy. For example, in fourth grade the kids are immersed in cultural and New Hampshire music and take a folk dancing unit. This year they

learned to play the Bob Marley song "Three Little Birds" while studying Jamaica and its culture.

"We try to weave music into their curriculum," said Schweiss, whether it's through patriotic songs or learning about instruments that are popular in other parts of the world.

In fifth grade, the kids learn piano and study Baroque music, a critical time in the history of western music, said Schweiss. In sixth grade, the kids learn about storytelling through music and write a five-minute skit to act out.

"As far as this curriculum goes, I like where it is. We cover all the standards, and it really gets them involved in their education, which I think is fantastic," Schweiss said.

In addition to regular music class, Schweiss outlined the activities of the band and chorus and how that has changed in the last five years. While in 2007 both ensembles were comprised of fifth through eighth graders playing alongside one another, it has since been split into two groups to better tailor songs and learning to individual ability. The chorus has remained relatively stable in number since then, while the band has almost doubled in size.

Where previously there

were two annual performances, now there are many. Band has four official performances, chorus three, but there are many additional opportunities, such as the late winter's Hot Chocolate Shop, to perform for peers and parents.

Schweiss was also pleased with how much better the kids get each year, in part because of a stable curriculum.

Since the change in the music program at Chester Academy, the band is becoming an increasingly visible part of the community, as it continues to expand the venues at which it plays. Schweiss has received much praise for his efforts at bringing the band out to local events like the Veterans Day Ceremony, where in the space of just a couple of years they went from their first appearance at the ceremony to their first march in its parade.

The school's Jazz Band has also been expanding in the last five years, in numbers, profile and skill. Recently it played in Manchester outside of Ted Herbert's Music.

"It was awesome," said Schweiss. "The goal of a jazz band in a community is to perform for the community."

Schweiss also explained a new offering this year, the Master Musician Program,

which allows band students a student-driven curriculum focused on technical mastery of their instrument. It prepares them well for their high school music careers, he noted.

The Master Musician Program was created by Schweiss, and is getting attention across the state. He said he presented it a workshop for regional band directors and found it well-received.

The annual musical is another effort put together by Schweiss and Vanderhoek. Between 80 and 110 kids take part each year. There are no cuts, and the show allows the older kids to mingle with the younger ones, with opportunities for leadership.

Other music department-led efforts include Men's Chorus, Open Music Room and a Talent Show-

case that allows students and community members another chance to show off their work.

All activities were forecasted for growth and future equipment needs. While Schweiss has been conservative with his budget, by his own and principal Leslie Leahy's admission, school board members said they were in full support of the music program's work and would be willing to review purchases the program needed to improve. Schweiss is looking to purchase new chairs and possibly equipment for the marching band.

"It's outstanding," said school board member Catherine Treanor after the presentation. She noted the lifelong learning and skill that music class imparts.

Chair Royal Richardson said Chester Academy's

music program was a good answer for those who question why a school needs arts education. He spoke of the benefit of learning music but also how technology, history and other disciplines are woven into the classroom.

Leahy noted that Chester is the first school where Schweiss has taught. "The kids love what he does. The kids are enthusiastic about what he does...Sometimes we look over the fact that this is a young educator that does phenomenal things," said Leahy.

Schweiss was recently named this year's Outstanding Young New Hampshire Band Director by the New Hampshire Band Directors' Association. In 2009 he was honored by the Yale University School of Music as a Distinguished Music Educator.

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Editorial

Neighbors in Need

A few weeks ago, we ran a story about the Free Community Meals Network, a group of churches in Derry that offer free lunches and dinners on varying days throughout the month, joined by West Running Brook Middle School, which hosts a free spaghetti supper once a month during the academic year.

This week, in our Nutfield News edition, we spotlight a new program that is operating in Derry this summer to feed children without cost. Southern New Hampshire Services will provide free suppers at three locations. This program is in addition to one begun last year by the Salvation Army, which provides free lunches to children at two locations twice a week in the summer.

Census data shows that at the locations chosen – for the most part, Derry's large apartment complexes – at least 50 percent of the child residents participate in the free and reduced lunch program at school. And while Derry Cooperative School District data does not show free and reduced lunch participation in any school at 50 percent, 44 percent of the students at Grinnell Elementary School receive subsidized meals. Overall, in figures from March 2011, 27 percent of Derry students qualified for the subsidized meal program.

The arrival in Derry of the free suppers should be welcome news to parents who are struggling, and who have

counted on school meals to feed their children. With numbers up at the Sonshine Soup Kitchen as well, it's time to acknowledge that people are going hungry in Derry. And while the numbers may not be so high in neighboring towns, they, too, can't escape the fact that for some people, summers are tough. Their food pantries bear evidence to that fact.

It's easy to look the other way as we stock up for weekend barbecues, but the arrival of free meals for children in Derry is hard to ignore for what it says about our economy.

That's why the work of the Free Community Meals Network is so important, and its growth is a positive sign. First Parish Congregational Church, Etz Hayim Synagogue and Church of the Transfiguration, the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Derry and St. Luke's United Methodist Church offer free meals for all ages on various days throughout the month. Not a week goes by without at least one lunch or dinner available.

The network's goal is to be able to provide even more free meals, and other churches are welcome to participate. Residents of other towns would do well to consider their neighbors' similar needs. And donations to the soup kitchen are always needed – and welcomed.

In this land of plenty, it's the least we can do.

Letters

SAU 55 Board

To the editor:

Very few parents or citizens attend SAU meetings, (or their recent focus groups), for reasons I now understand. Should you wish to comment at an SAU meeting, you must fill out a form stating which agenda items you wish to address.

At the SAU 55 meeting June 11, I waited to address the SAU board on two agenda points, the interim Superintendent's compensation, and the new Superintendent contract.

When the interim Superintendent's compensation came up, I spoke to an SAU member's previously expressed interest in paying the interim Superintendent the same salary as the outgoing Superintendent. I argued that this was unwise on two counts. It is inappropriate to pay the interim Superintendent the same salary as someone who has been in the position for seven years, and doing so sets the salary expectations of prospective applicants.

I also made a plea for the salary discussion to be held in public session. Only two members of the 10-member SAU board voted to keep the discussion public.

I am familiar with the law concerning non-public meetings. The law allows, but does not mandate, non-public discussion of employee salaries, and in my opinion, it was inappropriate in this case. When elected officials do not have to justify their reasoning, any conclusion has to be accepted as reasoned and reasonable. How will you know otherwise?

Shortly after the hour-long non-public session, there was a lengthy discussion by the SAU board as to how they could screen undesirable people from the superintendent screening committee, to which more parents have applied than are positions. A pity they couldn't hide that discussion in

another non-public meeting.

When the Superintendent contract was next, the chairman allowed me to address the board. Since the committee studying contract terms had not yet presented, I asked to reserve my comments for after the board's discussion. The chairman did not permit me to do this. The proper way to conduct a public meeting is to open public comment after board discussion but before a vote, if there is one.

As another example of the lengths the SAU board goes to keep itself free of public comment, the SAU had its own Superintendent focus group May 31. This session was not advertised with the other focus sessions and did not allow public comment. I know because I asked to attend.

Sandown's town hall has been closed Fridays for years because we don't have the money to heat the building – yet the SAU found \$24,000 in their budget for a search consultant and additional pay to SAU staff with interim responsibilities, and who knows how much more for exit costs to Mr. LaSalle. How much money does the SAU have?

Timberlane has been a federally designated "School in Need of Improvement" for years. Hiring a new superintendent is a tremendous opportunity to improve our children's education. Your taxes should be going to effective teachers, not SAU administrators – and your votes should be going to people who support open meetings with public participation.

Donna Green
Sandown

Meeting in Public, Not Public Meeting

To the editor:

Most people believe that the public is absolutely entitled to speak and participate at public meetings, period. Otherwise, they claim infringement

of their First Amendment's right to free speech.

That pervasive misconception runs counter to the provisions of RSA91-A, the Right-to-Know law.

RSA91-A:2,II prescribes that any legally convened public meeting "...shall be open to the public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings of those bodies or agencies."

Notice that the privilege is just to "attend" any meeting. There is no mention of the right to speak in that provision or elsewhere.

Thus, while the law mandates that the meeting be held in public, the meeting is not a public meeting.

This apparent contradiction of terms is what gives the presiding officer, and/or the members of the entity holding the meeting, the authority to set limits and conditions on any testimony offered during the meeting.

The limitations are clearly explained on page 11 of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Right-to-Know Memorandum, <http://doj.nh.gov/civil/documents/right-to-know.pdf>: "D. Meeting Procedures: Meetings of public bodies subject to the Right-to-Know law are open to the public unless the body is authorized to hold a non-public session. RSA 91-A:2. Any person may attend an open meeting. The public's right to attend a meeting established by the Right-to-Know law does not convey a right to speak or participate. Other laws may require that the public be afforded a regulated opportunity to speak at public hearings or certain other meetings of public bodies. Many public bodies voluntarily establish appropriate regulated public comment periods at some meetings; however, this is not required by the Right-to-Know law."

The key phrases are "...Right-to-Know law does not convey a right to speak or participate..." and "...Many

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Letters

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public bodies voluntarily establish appropriate regulated public comment periods."

These restrictions are the antithesis of the radical entitlement mentality that is sweeping the country, exemplified by the Occupy Whatever movements and other similar initiatives that justify any actions under the mantra of exercising Free Speech rights, social justice, etc.

Reality is that society has to operate under a set of common laws, binding on everyone, to ensure orderly peace, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Therefore, when you feel aggrieved and violated by public officials because

you were not allowed to participate or were held to time limits, do not fret but understand that the restrictions were based on rules designed to produce shorter, meaningful, respectful meetings, and limit your complaints to wishing it were otherwise.

Above all, recognize and accept that the public officials acted precisely within their authority and their restrictions were entirely lawful.

Jorge Mesa-Tejada
Hampstead

Speak Up

To the editor:

The Sandusky trial has given millions of Americans insight as to how some

predators prowl, how they hunt, who might they cull from the herd, how do they pounce on their prey. And just as important, America heard the horror recounted by Sandusky's victims, what their trauma did to them, how they could "never tell."

A common element throughout the victims' stories is that the boys were vulnerable, isolated, trusting and betrayed by that trusted figure. All the elements of abuse employed by Sandusky served to silence the victim. The predator is so confident that the boy will never tell, he rarely even has to instruct, pressure or threaten the child into silence.

Now for the lesson: Those adults charged with supervising and protecting the children neglected to

see the signs of abuse, or listen to hints, and then went on to trust him. Anyone close to a child being groomed for abuse or being blatantly abused can and will see clear signs of that action. What they lack is the ability to decipher and act. It's also likely that the adults were groomed by the predator as well.

The adults need to be aware of the signs constructed around them as well. Look at the situation this way: We all know what a drug dealer looks like, how they behave, what activities to watch for. We all know what a drug abuser and alcoholic look like, how they behave, what they do, methods of cover-up. It's time to learn what affects one in four

girls and one in six boys in this nation. It's time to stop being afraid of speaking up.

When someone encounters the signs of abuse, deciphers them and concludes that more examination of a child's safety is called for, they are all too frequently stopped in fear of: disturbing a family's peace, wrecking a reputation, etc.

The suspecting adult then typically looks for the exits: "It's not for me to determine." "His parents ought to see this guy for what he is, so I'll leave it to them." "My life could spiral into turmoil...so I'd be trading my life for reporting something that I don't know exists." And then the adult does nothing. And the abuser wins.

One Assistant Penn State Coach was an eyewitness to

a 10-year-old being raped and did nothing. Sandusky expected that reaction. He built and groomed that environment for his purpose.

There is a non-profit organization that can not only bring any adult up to speed with the signs of grooming and abuse, but also help them report crimes and suspicions of crimes: www.stopitnow.org.

You may not have a "duty to report" according to your state's laws, but we all have a moral duty to save a child's life. Please get educated. Please keep your eyes open and speak up.

Rob Brown
Child rights activist
Chester

Contract

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rant article, Busby would already know the limit of funding for the project. He wondered how his peers could be so ready to make a decision on the matter after hearing about it only recently.

Voters approved spending up to \$350,000 on this year's road work.

Colburn said that to a certain degree the bottom line was out of Busby's control, as its 2011 costs would be assimilated into this year's work specifications.

Though selectman Brenda Copp said that some reservations initially occurred to her, after hearing Monday's presentation she decided it was an appropriate time to waive the policy.

Selectman Tom Tombarello said the board was there to try and save the

town money. Though also expressing reservations about waiving an important policy, he said he felt justified in doing so.

Chair Steve Brown conceded that he understood Nicolaisen's concerns. "I appreciate your concern, but going on past history, going on cost savings and going on time savings...I could argue both sides, but I'm going to argue this side," said Brown before motioning to approve Busby as the contractor.

The roads included in this year's work include a shim and overlay of North Road, turning Holts Point from dirt back to pavement, and drainage work to Phillipswood Road.

Though the original draft of the action plan indicates that work would begin on Fremont Road this year, after residents of Holts Point Road complained last

year about the continued deterioration of their road, the selectmen and Genualdos agreed to push off Fremont Road.

North Road is on the list because though it was worked on not long ago, a wear coat was never laid and as a result, the pavement is already beginning to break up. Genualdo is looking to save the road and prevent more extensive and expensive repairs by laying the wear coat.

Genualdo and Keach-Nordstrom have been trying to find money in annual road work budgets to fix drainage problems on Phillipswood, but since the problem was identified in 2010, there hasn't been any extra funding.

In other business at the June 18 meeting:

- Bedford Sealcoating was awarded a bid of up to \$10,000 to seal coat a num-

ber of roads in town. Though when the project was initially presented to the board, Tombarello raised concerns about not having police officers run traffic control, a compromise was agreed to whereby the contractor would use its flaggers in conjunction with an officer.

- Genualdo will be looking into installing American flags on all of the telephone poles from Central School to the Post Office, after being impressed with the effect such an arrangement had in other towns he recently visited. He asked for the selectmen's approval to begin work on the project and received much praise for the initiative.

- Completing a discus-

sion from earlier in the year, the board will be reducing the insurance coverage for the Old Meetinghouse but keeping it the same for the Train Depot Museum.

When this year's property insurance costs went up, the board, led by office manager Lynne Blaisdell, looked into what it was paying on town buildings. The amount paid to insure the two historical buildings seemed high to selectmen, but before making any decisions, they wanted to speak with representatives of those buildings.

Arlene Bassett, a member of the Old Meetinghouse Historical Society, said it was appropriate to reduce the amount of coverage for the Nationally Regis-

tered landmark because it was a building impossible to replace. She suggested keeping \$200,000 (it was appraised at \$820,000) to cover vandalism and more minor repairs.

President of the historical society Doug Martin, though conceding that if the treasures within the depot were lost they could not be replaced, said it made sense to keep insurance on the building so the historical society would be able to rebuild.

It costs \$121 to insure the building for the current \$189,000.

Martin noted the history of the structure, and how it was once the hub of Sandown's cottage industries and mills.

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MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The board of selectmen decided to encumber \$110,000 this year to cover highway work in the coming fiscal year. The board made the decision on Thursday, June 14, after discussing the matter with road agent Mike Oleson.

Oleson has routinely come before the selectmen at the end of each year to encumber funds. It's a process, he said, that allows

him to combine successive years' funding in order to tackle larger road construction projects than would be feasible with a single year's budget.

One method to legally encumber funds is to have a signed contract binding the town to certain work. In this case, the money will go to two road projects - a reclaim and repave of Pingree Hill Road and a shim and overlay of Tenney Farm Road.

The exact financial stan-

ding at the end of the current fiscal year is unknown, and there may not be \$110,000 left to fund the project. Some outstanding costs and other encumbrances remain to be made, but the board decided to encumber the total amount and make decisions about how much would go to roadwork once firmer figures were known.

Oleson and the selectmen agreed that putting \$110,000 into the unreserved fund balance would-

n't do much good. By doing so, the money could be used to help offset taxes when the tax rate is set in the fall, but it was agreed the sum wouldn't make a significant dent in the tax rate.

Oleson conceded that circumstances at the end of the year may provide no money for his project. The board, including chair Steph Landau, Jack Cannon, Mike Weider and Rich LeBlanc, voted for the encumbrance.

The board also agreed

to several other encumbrances, including \$4,981 for seal coating at the transfer station, \$16,626 for the town's revaluation, and \$900 for an update to the town's website. The board disallowed the Village Cemetery Trustees to encumber about \$1,200 for a new lawnmower. According to Landau, the sum as going to be combined with perpetual care money to purchase an approximately \$4,000 machine.

Despite Landau's fight-

ing for the money, both Cannon and Weider decided it was imprudent. LeBlanc abstained.

Cannon and Weider pointed to an overspent salary line in the cemetery budget and the fact that no such sum was included in the coming year's number for that equipment. Landau argued that the need for the equipment came up after budget time, and questioned why there was such resistance to a relatively small sum.

Recycling Prepares for Meeting on Trash Regulations

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Recycling Committee spent time last week trying to figure out what questions might be asked at its planned Informational Meeting on the newly approved curbside trash pick-up regulation. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, and its purpose is to explain why the regulation has been changed and to answer any

questions about it.

According to the new regulations, after July 2, a single family residence can place outside for curbside pick-up two barrels or four bags. A single family dwelling with an in-law apartment may put out three barrels or six bags, while a duplex can have four barrels or eight bags of trash for pick-up. Condominiums are allowed the same amount as a residence or two barrels or four bags, while two-unit apartment buildings can put out three barrels or six bags.

Mobile or manufactured homes on common property can put out two barrels or four bags.

These amounts effectively cut in half what has been allowed under the regulation issued in October 2003. Those amounts were found to be too generous, especially when it was discovered that the average resident was putting out only a fraction of what was allowed.

The committee will inform Bestway Disposal, the town's curbside pick-up vendor, of the changes. Peo-

ple wanting to put out additional bags will be required to purchase a sticker for \$1 per sticker from the Town Clerk's Office. Arrangements have been made to have the stickers printed; the \$1 charge will cover the cost of the stickers.

The committee hopes the idea that residents can put out unlimited recycling containers will have an impact, and members are pleased that the amount of recycling is continuing to inch up.

To help with recycling, Hampstead was chosen as

the New Hampshire town representing the state to participate in a six-month Recycle Bank challenge. Residents participating will earn rewards and the community with the highest percentage of its population reporting they recycled each month will be the winner. The prize for that is a

\$100,000 grant for a project that promotes sustainability.

Residents can sign up to participate by going to Recyclebank.com/green-choices and will get a personal identification number to enter the challenge. A flier with the details will be sent to each household in the near future.

Rash of Car Thefts in Hampstead

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Numerous cars in fairly close proximity were entered and items inside were taken overnight June 7 into June 8 in Hampstead.

Hampstead Police Lt. John Frazier said the cars, which were unlocked and parked in the owners' driveways on Glenwood North, Sarah's Way, Lexington Drive and West Main Street, were entered and wallets, credit cards, cell phones,

GPS (Global Positioning System), sunglasses and cash were taken.

"Given where these incidents took place and the time frame, one can draw the conclusion that they are related and the thefts committed by the same suspect or suspects," Frazier said.

Frazier said the incidents are being investigated.

"The message is people should not leave valuables in their cars overnight even in their driveways, and they certainly should lock their cars at all times," he said.

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Lunch Cost Going Up in Hampstead Public Schools

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The cost of school lunches will increase by 15 cents, rising to \$2.54 in the coming year, in order to comply with federal regulations.

At the Tuesday, June 12, School board meeting, the board also learned that the School District will have a new food service provider for the coming year.

The Hampstead/Timberlane School District went

out to bid for food service, and three out of five companies that initially responded ultimately bid for the contract, Kathy Smith told the board. She said the decision was not made based on money because the bids were all extremely close.

The committee chose Whitson's over Café Services, the current vendor, and Chartwell's, saying it thinks the quality of Whitson's food and the company's overall food presentation was the best. The bid is

for a five-year contract but terms are renewable annually.

In other business:

- The board approved the Everlast MagnaWall, a climbing wall system designed for younger students. It will be installed in the Central School gym. It includes a 3-inch cordless mat locking system, so the mats will be lifted off the floor and stored against the wall when not in use.

The cost of the 8-foot by 40-foot climbing wall, in-

cluding a fire retardant upgrade, is \$9,730, with the funding provided by donations from CRA (Community Resources Association of Southern New Hampshire) in the amount of \$1,000, the Parent Teacher Student Association in the amount of \$2,500, and the Hampstead Mothers Club for \$4,999, added to the Physical Education New Equipment money from the 2012 and 2013 budgets in the amount of \$1,231.

Only board member Jim

Stewart was skeptical about the purchase, worrying that disabled youngsters would be excluded and that it was an unnecessary cost. Special grips will be funded by another Hampstead Mothers Club donation or other funding once the wall is installed, to make it usable for all students.

The physical education teachers have checked with the School District insurers and were told the wall was fine and wouldn't result in an additional cost.

The board voted to accept each of the donations and approved the purchase.

- The board gave two Pinkerton Academy graduating seniors from Hampstead a \$300 scholarship check each. John Kirk accepted his check, thanked the board and said he plans to attend State University of New York at Buffalo. Casey Gilman accepted her check and after thanking the board, said she planned to attend Simmons College in Boston.

School

continued from page 1

through Grade 4 students. Central has 520-plus students, however, if preschool is counted, but the state does not include preschoolers in its staffing requirements.

Stewart suggested the preschool program could be eliminated because it is there by choice. However, the schools must care for students with disabilities from age 3 to 21, and without the preschool program, the identified youngsters would have to be sent to other districts.

Collins said it was "disingenuous to say preschool was not a part of the Central School and part of his responsibility."

Stewart provided statistics and data showing how much higher the increase in the Hampstead school budgets has been as compared to the town between 2009 and 2012. He also provided statistics to show that of the School Administrative Unit (SAU) 55 towns (Sandown, Danville, Plaistow and Timberlane, as well as Hampstead), Hampstead spends more percentage-wise in terms of total taxes on education than any of the other towns.

Gallo added that the percent of change over the last 10 years in the Kindergarten-Grade 8 cost per pupil for Hampstead was 117.4 percent, while enrollment was declining.

Dimando said she thinks it would be unfair to fill the position and then during a subsequent budget process, have to lay off the hire because of a continued decrease in enrollment.

Collins and Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg both said they didn't recommend or support not filling the position, and while they both spoke of the restructuring that would take place if the posi-

tion is eliminated, both said that whatever the board decided could be done.

Hoppa told his fellow board members he thought they should listen to the people they paid to work for them and take into account what the public was saying. He noted nearly 50 emails had been sent to the board on the issue, and that while the dollars others complained about being spent on the Hampstead educational product may be high,

the outcome is measured by the fact that Hampstead students are among the very top in the state. He said he worried that when administrative positions are cut, lower academic results would follow.

Gallo said the board had a fiduciary responsibility to spend the money wisely, and with the predicted continuing decline in enrollment and with teacher and custodial contracts coming up, she said the board need-

ed to save where it could.

The board allowed public comment but Graham asked that each comment be kept to 2 minutes and that people should speak only if they had something new to add. This was not well received, but School Board policy has always been that their meetings are held in public but are not public meetings, thus retaining the right to limit or cut off comments.



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New Cable Equipment Ready for School Graduation

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The new “Studio in a Box” that Interim Studio Manager Bianca Nicolosi has named “Beauty” is ready for its maiden voyage - Hampstead Middle School graduation June 19 at the Middle

School gym, after Tri-Town Times goes to press. The new equipment is a transition from equipment known as the “beast,” which had to be transported to any out-of-studio video taping.

Cable board members have been training on the equipment, and Nicolosi

has been getting her summer student crew, who work the Meeting House Summer Music Concerts, trained on the new equipment as well.

Nicolosi said T-shirts have been handed out to all board members and the summer student crew. The shirts, which say “Staff,” should make it easy for any-

one at the concerts to identify whom to ask for information.

At last week’s meeting, the board discussed getting members of the school staff trained so that School Board meetings would be handled by Channel 6 and school-related personnel. The intent all along has been to

keep Town meetings and events on Cable Channel 17, while all school related material would be broadcast on Cable Channel 6. The board expressed satisfaction that this goal is being pursued and the end is in sight.

In other business:

- The cable board has assumed responsibility for

getting the bandstand at Meeting House Park painted. Chairman Clay Shaw said the work was finished and paid for, and he has plans to decorate the bandstand for the July 3 concert, which has a patriotic theme. He suggested the bunting could remain in place for the entire concert series.

Runner Collapses After Collision with Vehicle

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – John Ingemi, 48, of Hampstead was jogging last week when he and a vehicle driven by 77-year-old Alfred Desmarais were involved in a collision at the intersection of Parklane Drive and Emerson Avenue.

The collision occurred just after 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 12

Hampstead Police Lt. John Frazier said the police have not been able to talk with Ingemi as yet, and based on witness reports and what Desmarais told police, it remains unclear whether Ingemi ran into the car or was tapped by the car

as it turned left onto Emerson Avenue.

Frazier said witness reports gathered by Det. Bobby Kelly at the scene and comments by Desmarais to Sgt. Rick Chambers at the Police Department, where he went to report the incident, say Ingemi was spun around but not knocked to the ground.

After the collision, he was bent over briefly but when Desmarais got out and asked him if he was all right, he responded he was fine and continued to run up the hill toward the center of town.

The witness, according to Frazier, had asked Ingemi if he was OK and been told yes, left the area but then

returned to Emerson Avenue and discovered that Ingemi had collapsed on the side of the road. The witness called 911.

Frazier said when Hampstead Fire and Rescue and Trinity Ambulance arrived, they found Ingemi unresponsive and made the decision to call for medical airlift. Ingemi was taken by

Medflight to Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Frazier said that upon admission, Ingemi was still unable to provide the hospital with his identification and information. Frazier said he had a head injury.

Frazier said the police have no plans to file charges against Desmarais.

Owners of Poorly Numbered Houses to Receive Letter

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – Residents with insufficiently visible numbering on their properties will soon receive a letter in the mail alerting them to their non-compliance with town code.

The board of selectmen

decided on a process to let residents know of the issue at their Monday, June 18, meeting. Since emergency responders raised concerns about tough-to-find homes and the failure of a warrant article this year to install a uniform numbering system, the board has decided to enforce a long dormant

town ordinance in an attempt to rectify the problem.

The 1987 warrant article that adopted the ordinance states “To see if the town will vote to adopt the following ordinance; Any dwelling not having the designated house number located at a non-obscured

site visible from public right of way shall be subject to a \$25 fine payable to the town. Said monies shall be used to purchase and locate said number.”

Last month the selectmen were presented a list of about 380 properties in town that failed to meet the wording of that article.

A letter will soon go out to each property owner on that list giving them 30 days to number their parcels better. The selectmen will then direct code enforcement officer Ken Sherwood to check to see if the homes are in compliance. He will have a month to check all homes.

Selectman Tom Tombarrello said the point of the enforcement was not to fine or because of a vendetta, but to make sure that police, fire and rescue can find the homes they need to during an emergency.

“We’re doing it for safety,” said Tombarello.

Chubb’s to Raise Money for Sandown Food Pantry

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – On Sunday, June 24, Ed Mencis, a couple of shanghaied selectmen and the big food trailer

known as Chubb’s Fries and Dough will be at the Train Depot parking lot to provide residents with fried food for a good cause.

It’s become a routine for Mencis to donate Chubb’s

for good causes, and this weekend the proceeds will go to the Sandown Food Pantry.

In its first appearance at the Train Depot in December of 2010, Mencis raised

about \$800 for the pantry with the support of the community.

Mencis urges everyone to stop by the booth on their way back from the Transfer Station or just

because they want some good fried food.

“Take a moment to come and enjoy the fries,” said Mencis.

“And help your town,”

said selectman chair Steve Brown, who volunteered his services for the day.

The cart will be out starting at noon until 5 p.m. or until the food runs out.

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No Decision on Uniforms for Highway Employees

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Though road agent Mike Oleson presented the board of selectmen with a proposal to purchase uniforms for the two full-time highway employees through a uni-

form service last month, no progress had been made on the issue and the road agent met with the board to find out why.

Oleson argues for the uniforms because surrounding communities use such apparel, the workers routinely get into materials that

would be best not brought home on clothing, and because it would present a professional front to the townspeople and visitors.

A three-year contract was presented to the board in May and selectmen agreed to have legal counsel look it over. The service

would routinely clean the uniforms and cost about \$1,890 a year.

Chair Steph Landau apologized for letting the proposal fall through the cracks, but by the end of the Thursday, June 14, meeting, the board was still uncertain as to the prudence of purchasing uniforms through a service.

Selectman Jack Cannon was the most vocal member on the initiative. Though conceding that he was in support of uniforms, he questioned just how big “a can of worms” would be opened, should the town agree to purchase them for the highway department.

Though the cost for the service would be about \$2,000, Cannon said the \$2,000 would get the town \$10,000 before the process was over.

Where does it end, questioned Cannon. Would all employees clamber in to the board to ask for the same service? Would they all have a different company they wanted to use?

“I see the value in uniforms,” said Cannon, who said he works at a company that mandates such attire. “I support it but it’s not a one-off program.”

Oleson said he didn’t see it as fair that all other surrounding towns have the

gear and Chester’s employee go without.

If the town would move forward, Cannon said, it should move together as a single entity with a single uniform service.

By the end of the meeting, it was agreed that highway employees would meet with other departments to gauge interest in such a service and price the project out further. In the meantime, Oleson said he will be buying his employees a few more shirts.

The town purchases uniforms for police and fire employees, but does not pay to launder them.



Flags Retired

Hampstead Selectman Rick Hartung, above, was one of the participants at the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in town. The service took place on Thursday, June 14, behind the fire station. In photo at left, Howie Steadman, who chairs the Hampstead Patriotic Purposes Committee, and Nick Maselli give proper disposal to worn out flags that brought in for official retirement.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Town Beach Swale Problem Related to Lake Level

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Beach Committee met with the men who surveyed, designed and constructed the new swale at the Town Beach, and concluded the level of the lake at this point in time is the culprit. Today, the lake level is higher than

was anticipated by the design, but why this happened is not yet clear.

The committee met Monday night to discuss what is happening with the swale, which doesn't appear to be working the way it was intended. Instead of accepting runoff and keeping it out of the lake, water is entering the swale direct-

ly from the lake.

Chris Dane did the initial survey work two years ago, Nick Cricenti did the design, and Chad Bennett of Bennett Construction did the actual building of the swale, all under the supervision of Jon Worthen, Road Agent and member of the Beach Committee.

At present, the swale is

filled with brackish water instead of being dry as expected. Cricenti suggested, however, that it was never intended to be dry, although the committee expected it to be, talking from the outset about possibly putting a deck over the rock-filled swale to keep kids from playing on the rocks. Those rocks are now under water and the water appears to be flowing into the swale from the lake back toward the headwall and the outfall pipes, a counter-productive situation.

The committee deter-

mined the swale as it presently exists isn't doing what was expected but could be fixed. First, however, it must be determined what and where things went wrong.

The committee decided Dane would redo the survey calculations on the swale as it exists now and get the figures to Cricenti, who will compare them to the original survey. This is expected to show where the problem lies and what will have to be done to correct it.

Cricenti warned that if the changes that have to be made are drastic – a descrip-

tion he did not define – the state would have to be involved. That could get expensive and extend the time frame for the project significantly.

The hope is that resolution can be achieved by additional rip rap, perhaps altering the shape of the swale slightly and removing the erosion control fencing at the lake entrance. But until Cricenti has the new survey data to compare to the data he used to create his design and to set the lake level, nothing is going to change.



PARTY TIME The Hampstead Mothers Club held its annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, night, June 13, at Hampstead Central School. The event provided a chance for children to get their last bit of socializing in with their friends before the school year ended. Twins Dominic and CJ Fazzio enjoy their sundaes, with their hand-picked toppings.

Photo by Chris Paul

Arrest Follows Traffic Stop

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Hampstead Police Detective Bobby Kelley was on uniformed patrol for the Police Department's grant for Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement when a car sped through the intersection of Derry Road and Main Street (Route 121) without stopping at the red blinking light, crossed Main and headed down Depot Road. Kelley followed the vehicle and pulled it over.

Lt. John Frazier said

Kelley encountered some difficulty interviewing the driver because he had a pit bull sitting on his lap. Kelley finally got the driver, Steven Cicale, 19, 75 Ellyson Ave. Hampstead, to step out of the vehicle.

Frazier said Cicale had no identification or license and the car registration was incorrect. All he had was a bill of sale, in which he had recently bought the car. During the discussion, Kelley received permission to search the vehicle and discovered a 2 to 3 ounce bag of what police said was high

end marijuana and a second bag of white powder that after a field test proved to be Ecstasy.

Frazier said Kelley arrested Cicale and brought him to the station after a friend arrived and took the dog. The car was towed from the scene. Police determined that Cicale does have a license.

Cicale was charged with possession of a controlled drug and released on \$10,000 personal recognizance bail. He has a court date of July 9 in Plaistow District Court.

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North School, Sandown Library Close Year with Lively Performance

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – As the school year drew to a close, North School and the Sandown Public Library teamed up to kick off summer reading in style. They invited Marty Kelley and Steve Blunt to the school for a show on Wednesday, June 13, for songs, drum playing, and book reading, and had the kindergarten through third grade students screaming, clapping along and laughing as if they were at a stadium show, not just

sitting in their cafeteria.

Kelley is a children's book author and illustrator and Blunt is a local musician and storyteller. Both are former teachers.

Blunt led the kids in song and dance, backed up by Kelley's drumming and occasional jaw harping, and then took a breather while Kelley kept the kids laughing with a few of his stories - the illustrations projected onto a giant screen.

The show was all about how awesome summer is and how fun reading is.

The New Hampshire

State Library annually creates a theme to promote summer reading for young people. This year's theme is "Dream Big, Read!" and local libraries across the region have all sorts of activities on the calendar to promote it.

Kelley read his books "Summer Stinks," "The Rules" and "The Messiest Desk," the last about a boy who was eaten by his extremely messy desk, and was only rescued after a fellow student spelunked into the furniture and pulled him out with a plunger

securely fastened to his head.

The humor was right up the kids' alley.

Librarian Laura McLaughlin has been bringing Kelley into the schools annually for author visits and has finished out the school year for at least a couple years now with the duo's performance.

She said the kids love Kelley and Blunt - the noise level in the cafeteria was testament to that - and see them as veritable rock stars.

McLaughlin and other teachers got in on the fun as well, as they were chosen by their students to act a little silly in front of the crowd.

McLaughlin sang "You Are My Sunshine" along with the performers in what is becoming a tradition at the school.

The kids were more than pleased to see their teachers in different roles than they were used to.

In one part of the show,



Marty Kelley and Steve Blunt performed at Sandown North School in a program held with the Sandown Public Library to welcome the Summer Reading Program.

Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

Blunt promised that the kids would get to see their teachers acting a little silly.

"But the really good news is that you're going to have to act really silly too!" said Blunt to applause.

The students would dance and clap and sing along for a while, then be

calmed down a bit with Kelley's readings.

Both students and teachers enjoyed the show, and McLaughlin and fellow teachers are already looking into incorporating the performance into next year's events.

Meeting House Summer Music Concert Series Begins June 26

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Another song-filled summer is about to begin, as the Hampstead Cable TV Advisory Committee-sponsored Meeting House Park Summer Music Concert Series gets under way on Tuesday, June 26.

The concert series has grown in popularity with each succeeding summer. The field is generally well filled with blankets and chairs, as people come to listen to the performers. A common sight is people dancing to the music, and enjoying an evening picnic to the strains of the music.

The first concert will feature the return of the

award-winning country music group the John Penny Band and the oldies favorite The Reminisants.

All the concerts are free and begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday nights.

The July 3 concert will be a patriotic event, and American flags will be handed out so concert goers can get into the spirit and interact with the band. That concert features the Merrimack Valley Community Band.

New this year will be a trivia contest to test people's music I.Q. Prizes will be awarded.

Additional concerts are:
• Tuesday, July 10, Banjo Dan and the Midnight Plowboys, 6 p.m.

• Tuesday, July 31, Rico Barr Swing Band, 6 p.m.

• Tuesday, Aug. 7, Don Campbell, 6 p.m.

• Tuesday, Aug. 14, Southern Rail, 6 p.m.

• Tuesday, Aug. 21, The '60s Invasion Band, 6 p.m.

All concerts are on the field behind the Hampstead Town Office. Parking is available at the Town Office building and at St. Anne's Parish across the field. Those attending are advised to bring blankets or chairs and bug spray.

Concerts are held rain or shine.

For more information, contact Clay Shaw at 329-6047 or 560-5069.

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Sandown North First Graders Stage 'North Star' Play

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Through song and narration, Sandown North School's first graders told their peers and teachers the story of "The North Star" in their annual play.

"The North Star," by Peter Reynolds, is a book that holds an important place at the school, and the first graders' reenactment was well received by the school community.

The kids performed the play twice on Monday, June 11, once in the morning and once after school. The morning showing saw the gym full of parents who came out to

see their children's theatrical work.

Music teacher Susan Quigley said the students had done a fantastic job preparing for the difficult production. "This is a very special book. We use it to talk about all of the things that we want our school to be as we travel on our journey," said Quigley. "We all have a journey to go on, and the more we read this book and the more we learned this play, we got to think about a lot of things that are important in life."

Quigley said her students impressed her with their efforts and success at putting together the play. It's not real-

ly a play for first graders, she said, but for older students, yet that didn't stop North's kids from putting on their production.

The play tells the story of a young boy traveling through life, meeting various characters and observing the world around him, and learning how to make good choices for himself, choices that will lead him to unlock his potential. It emphasizes that every person is on a unique path, carved out by their own strengths and weaknesses.

The book has long been the school's guiding theme, and is used throughout the year in many forms.



In front of a chorus of Sandown North first graders, Adam Noyes takes some advice from cat Camden Zambrowicz during their production of "The North Star" by Peter Reynolds.
Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

Filing Period for State Positions Closes with Full Slate

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

The filing period for state office closed on June

15, and those positions are sought by a number of local residents.

For Rockingham County District 23's single senate

seat, one Democrat and two Republicans have announced their candidacy. Democrat Carol Croteau of Kingston is running along with

Republicans Russell Prescott of Kingston and Dennis F. Acton of Fremont.

Eight candidates have announced their intent to seek a spot in the House.

Democrats Charlotte Lister of Chester and Kelly Upham-Torosian of Auburn are running for the House.

The Republican primary ticket is full with Gene Charron, Joseph Hagan and Frank M. Carrio Sr. of Chester, James E. Devine of Sandown, and Dan Dumaine and Stella Tremblay of Auburn.

In the House of Representatives, Chester, Sandown and Auburn comprise Rock-

ingham County District 4. Up until this year, both Chester and Sandown were part of Rockingham District 7, which is currently represented by Republicans Gene Charron and Joseph Hagan, both of Chester; Jim Devine of Sandown and Betsy Sanders of Danville.

For the Senate, Sandown and Chester are in Senate District 23 along with Brentwood, Danville, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont and Kingston.

Previously both Chester and Sandown were part of State Senate District 17, which also included Allentown, Brentwood, Chich-

ester, Danville, Deerfield, Epsom, Fremont, Northwood, Pittsfield and Raymond.

Republican Senator Jack Barnes of Raymond currently represents Senate District 17.

Sandown selectman Tom Tombarello filed for County Commissioner in Rockingham District 2. He is running as a Republican against Republican incumbent Maureen Barrows of Exeter. Three Democrats are also seeking the position.

The State Primary Election is Sept. 11, and the State General Election is Nov. 6.

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School Board Hears Update on Mentoring Program

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Hampstead Central School Assistant Principal Jennifer Scarpati, who coordinated the updated Mentoring Program for Hampstead schools, told the School Board that mentoring was working well and was considered a valuable program by both mentors and those with whom they worked.

The plan was adopted on May 11, 2010 and has been used ever since. Mentoring for the first three years in Hampstead is required for professional staff, with a sliding placement based on experience. Scarpati said the feedback has been positive, with 71 percent participating in peer observations, 58 percent reporting daily or weekly meetings with mentors, and

100 percent reporting the program met their needs and was effective in supporting their professional growth, performance and success.

The common thread identified by both groups was the need for more time for planning and peer observation and for working to meet the needs of new employees in unique positions, as well as continued

support for mentors.

In other business at the Tuesday, June 12, School Board meeting:

- Owen Harrington, assistant principal at Hampstead Middle School and the lead coordinator for the Olweus anti-bullying program at that school, said the school has made significant progress in dealing with bullying. He had statistics to show that more incidents were being reported

by students, more student intervention was taking place to deal with incidents, and teachers, bus drivers, staff and parents were all contributing to its success.

One of the hot spots for bullying was identified as bus travel, but that dropped below the significant number of incidents and was replaced by the lunchroom.

Harrington said the plan is to create an HMS Olweus

guidebook.

• Nancy Danahy, Human Resources director for School Administrative Unit (SAU) 55, of which Hampstead is a part, said her department often conducts exit interviews, and if the School Board wishes, she can implement such exit interviews for teachers and administrators from now on, and report trends and information of significance to the board. The board asked her to do so.

Selectmen Approve Fire Chief's Bid Recommendations

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Fire Chief Michael Carrier presented three bid recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in a special Friday evening meeting, and in each case, the low bidder was recommended. The bid recommendations are for a new fire alarm system for

the fire station, an automatic sprinkler system and a new tanker truck.

Carrier recommended the board approve the \$9,174.50 bid from Total Security, low bidder for the station fire alarm system. The board unanimously approved this recommendation.

Carrier also recommended the board approve the low bidder for the auto-

matic sprinkler system, Granite State Fire Protection at \$38,500. Carrier said he was \$9,474.50 short of what was needed, given the Homeland Security grant of \$53,200. The total cost of the project – the alarm system and the sprinkler system and correcting the water flow in the building to get the water to the top floor ceiling – would cost

\$62,674.50.

He told the board he could cover the shortfall through the maintenance line in his budget. If that did not meet board approval, he said he would have to shelve the project and return the grant money.

The board unanimously approved the Granite State Fire Protection bid and allowed Carrier to cover the

shortfall through his budget.

Carrier told the board that after close examination of the bid proposals from KME Fire Apparatus and HME Fire Apparatus, including what the companies would offer as discounts for a trade-in and for pre-payment, he recommended KME, the low bidder at \$313,225 when the discounts were taken into

account. Even if Town Treasurer Harold Williams decides against pre-payment, KME would still be the low bidder.

Carrier has a \$325,000 Homeland Security grant for the new tanker truck.

The board unanimously approved the chief's recommendation to go with KME for the new tanker truck.

Contested Races for Hampstead State House Seats

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The filing period for candidates for state and county offices concluded June 15, and candidates for State Representative filings will go forward as filed. The Representative redistricting plan was challenged in court, but on Tuesday, June 19, the New Hampshire Supreme Court said the redistricting was lawful.

Under the House's 2012 re-districting plan, District

13 consists of Hampstead and Kingston and would elect four representatives. District 34 is a flatorial district (a legislative district that includes in its boundaries several separate districts that independently would not be entitled to additional representation

but whose conglomerate population entitles the area to another seat in a legislative body undergoing redistricting) and includes Hampstead and Kingston (District 13), and Plaistow and Atkinson (District 14). It will elect one representative.

For Rockingham District 13, five candidates are vying for four seats. From Kingston are Republican incumbents Kenneth Weyler and David Welch, and newcomer Kevin St. James, and from Hampstead, Republican incumbents John Sedensky and Regina Bird-

sell.

For the single Flatorial District 34 seat, five candidates have signed up. The candidates are Republican incumbent Jeff Oigny and newcomer Timothy Alavosus, both from Hampstead; newcomers Janet Cincotta and William Friel from Atkinson, and incumbent Republican Marie Sapeinza

from Plaistow. No Democrats have filed.

For Rockingham Senate District 19, which covers Derry and Hampstead, only incumbent Republican Senator Jim Rausch of Derry has filed.

The State Primary Election is slated for Sept. 11, with the General Election to be held on Nov. 6.

Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to local residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Tri-Town Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net.

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Chester Academy Graduates Urged to Be Individuals

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – It was a bright day on which Chester Academy's eighth graders said their official

goodbye to their school, a school that many of them had attended since the first grade. The school held graduation on the sunny Saturday morning of June 16 at 10 a.m., and the big

yellow and white tent on the softball field was filled to overflowing with family and friends of the young graduates.

Played in by their school's band and led by marshals Jessica Nardoza and Hayden Stinson, members of the eighth grade class were smiling, laughing and waving at their well-wishers.

Once the students sat down and saw their classmate Sarah Costello lead the band in playing the National Anthem, principal Leslie Leahy continued a pragmatic tradition at the graduation. Leahy let all of the parents crowd around the seated graduates to get pictures. She said that once the ceremony is over, the kids weren't going to go back to their seats to sit in orderly rows, so parents should get their pictures while they could.

"I'm sure for many of you this is a fairly emotional journey today because you've watched them come all the way through Chester Academy," said Leahy once the pictures were done. "This is a pretty big moment for them."

Each year the kids choose their guest graduation speaker from the halls of their school, and this year they chose Dan Jacobs, their physical education teacher. Jacobs kept the kids and the

crowd laughing while imparting some wisdom for the students as they enter their next four years of schooling, most of them at Pinkerton Academy.

After a couple of technical difficulties, Jacobs began by making sure the kids could find their moms in the audience. He urged the students to let their moms get emotional at this and future graduations. Because she's earned it, he said, she's been there for them the whole time.

Jacobs conceded that after being chosen to speak he wasn't sure which kind of wisdom to impart. He considered his grandfather's words of wisdom, "You turkeys go play on the turnpike!" might not fit, or his dad's "Nothing illegal, immoral or stupid."

"I always liked how he added in stupid, in case illegal and immoral didn't cover everything," said Jacobs.

Jacobs settled on some of his own advice instead, straight from the "Mr. Jacobs' High School Survival Guide."

Get involved, he said, because high school is what you make of it. Whatever your interest, there's an outlet for it at Pinkerton Academy. Don't just attend your required classes, take part in the school's community, he urged.

He told the students to tailor their education to what they want it to be. Jacobs highlighted Pinkerton's varied course load and said the kids should follow their interests and learn everything they can.

"Find teachers that can reach you," said Jacob. "It's those teachers who speak your language that can really open doors. Find those teachers that get you and take as many classes with them as you can."

"Work hard," he added. "There's no substitute for it. If shortcuts were the way of doing things, they would be called 'the way,' not shortcuts." Don't be afraid to achieve as much as you can, but it's something that will take hard work."

Finally, he emphasized the importance of being an individual, and by using the song 'The Freshmen' by the Verve Pipe, Jacobs cautioned that too often

teenagers think themselves invincible. With all of the choices coming up in their high school careers, Jacob urged the kids to think for themselves and not allow themselves to be manipulated. He also urged them to seek advice from their parents when unsure of how to act.

On behalf of the class, advisor Paula Zofrea presented the class gift. Instead of bestowing an object to the school, the kids decided to raise money for those in need and raised more than \$700 to present to the Make A Wish Foundation.

The ceremony finished with the presentation of diplomas by school board member Mike Romick and superintendent Jim Gaylord. After that the kids filed out of the tent and were soon surrounded on the infield by all of those who had come out to see the historic moment in their young lives.



HIGH MOVERS David Fram of SNF Crane Service sent one of his cranes to the Old Meeting House in Hampstead on Friday, where it was met by Doug Dupouy of Sandown, the artisan who crafted a new bell yoke, and Chip Hastings, member of the Historic District Heritage Committee, who made the new hardware. The yoke was attached to the crane's arm and hoisted up to the belfry, where it was brought in by Dupouy. That was followed by other items that had to be attached to the bell, the wheel and all the hardware. Officials say it is looking more and more likely that the historic Paul Revere Jr. bell will ring in Independence Day at midnight on July 3.

Photo by Penny Williams

Pinkerton Students Earn Top Film Honors

Pinkerton Academy Video Production students earned top honors at the New Hampshire High School Film Festival.

Juniors Rochelly Zapata of Derry and Callee Thompson of Chester took Best in Show/Best New Hampshire High School Film of 2012 for their film "Analogous, a glimpse into how connected people are while living separate lives."

The duo's work will screen with professional films at the New Hampshire Film Festival in Portsmouth, The Somewhat

North of Boston Film Festival in Concord, and the New Hampshire Outdoor Music Festival in Keene.

Also recognized at the festival was "The Champ," produced by juniors Sam Waterhouse, Devin Cox, Cooper Richards, and senior Mark Smith. The students' film was a finalist for Best in Show.

The Audience Favorite award went to juniors Paul Cooper of Derry, Aaron Small of Chester, and Noah Levin of Hampstead for "Hidden."

To watch "Analogous," visit <http://vimeo.com/41937188>.

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Weather Balloon Launch at Hampstead Central School

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - It almost has become a tradition that a representative from the Plymouth State University Department of Atmospheric Science and Chemistry pays a visit each year to the Hampstead Central School or Hampstead Middle School weather station for a Radiosonde Weather Balloon launch.

Brendon Hoch, technology manager, and Taleena Sines, a graduate student in Meteorology, visited Central School on June 12, after weather caused two previous attempts to launch the weather balloon to be postponed.

The entire student body and staff gathered on the grassy knoll beside the school's weather station, which was developed and built by John Kelley, a Hamp-

stead resident and meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a weather observer at the National Weather Service Cooperative Climatological Station in West Hampstead.

Kelley and his son, Sean, and now his daughter, Maria, have participated in all of the balloon launches and the weather station developments at both Hampstead schools. The information gathered at the weather stations by the students is transmitted to CoCoRaHS - the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network, a non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages who measure and map precipitation.

Kelley and his daughter helped Hoch and Sines inflate the weather balloon, and Hoch attached the radiosonde, a small instru-

ment package that is tethered to the balloon as it rises to altitudes up to 115,000 feet. The data recorded by the instrument package sensors includes atmospheric pressure, air temperature, humidity and wind velocity.

The kids watched in awe as the balloon was inflated, and then, on a count of three, Maria and Sines released the balloon as everyone craned their necks to watch it rise into the sky. They were able to follow its progress on a computer after it was out of sight, thanks to an antenna Hoch had set up prior to the launch.

Hoch told the students the balloon would be increasing in size as the pressure decreased until it would finally pop and the instrument package would fall to the ground. Hoch said the usual track, because of prevailing winds, is eastward, so most packages dropped into

the ocean. He said the instrument packages are disposable, as it would be too expensive to try and track them for retrieval.

The students were amazed to learn that every day a weather balloon is released at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, or 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time all over the world. The nearest stations to Hampstead where this happens are Gray, Maine and Chatham, Mass.

Plymouth State University is one of a few schools in the U.S. with this technology, with students launching radiosondes as part of their course work and research.

The technology and exercise is brought to public schools, science fairs and organizations throughout the region.



Hampstead Central School fourth grader Maria Kelley helps launch a Radiosonde Weather Balloon brought to the school from Plymouth State University. With her is Plymouth graduate student Taleena Sines.

Highway

continued from page 1

The other selectmen present, chair Steph Landau and Jack Cannon, were not adamant about bidding the work out.

Oleson estimated that the requisite bid specifications, to be drawn up by town engineer Dubois and King, advertising and oversight were going to add 40 to 50 percent in project cost.

Oleson told the board that a representative from the town's engineering firm said that it was a waste of time and money to have engineering plans drawn up, and by extension, the selectmen should allow Oleson to fix the culvert.

There are two outstanding culvert projects, one on Pheasant Run and the other on Candia Road.

The road agent argued that the benefits of doing the work his way included the town's getting all material at cost, no need to pay for

supervisory work because he would be operating equipment, and the town's engineering firm would work with him free on the inspection end. If the project is bid out, the town is paying for engineering and oversight and a likely markup for materials.

Weider argued that it was Oleson's choice to have engineering and bid specifications drawn up by the engineer, and said the highway department was able to do that work.

Both Oleson and veteran highway department worker Andy Higham said they did not know how to draw up that engineering.

"You qualified to draw up specs to put culverts in, Mr. Higham?" called out Oleson to the back of the room.

"No idea," said Higham.

"We just want consistency with our bid purchase policy," said Weider, adding that the engineer had told him the town was qualified to put the bid package

together.

"I'm not going to take responsibility for someone else. If I'm not going to be on the job, watching the pipe go in, I'm not going to be the responsible party. It's that simple," said Oleson.

Landau said that in his conversation with the engineer, he heard the same as Oleson but throughout the discussion, he urged the two to take the argument down a notch.

Both Landau and Cannon looked for ways to avoid the bid policy. To that end, Cannon argued that the contractor's costs should be separated from the job, but Weider said such a move was just muddying the bookkeeping waters.

Weider argued that con-

tractors could be directed to provide only manpower and equipment and to utilize materials purchased by the town. In return, Oleson said that there were few contractors who would agree to those terms, because that was where they made their money.

"We elect a road agent to oversee the work. We don't elect a road agent to run their equipment and build their business," said Weider.

"I don't have to worry about building my business on this damn town's dollar. And you know it," said Oleson, bristling at the accusation.

"Rent an excavator from someone else," said Weider. "Rent it from a rental company. I don't care. Have the

town employees do it. Why can't they do it?"

"Because you've only got two," said Oleson.

"Then hire two part timers to do it," said Weider. "I'm just against the whole process."

"I know you are. You're against anything I do. You haven't signed one of my bills in two years because you're against how I bill the town," said Oleson.

"That's not true," said Weider.

"It is true. You're a liar if you say it's not," said Oleson.

"Steph, again, he continues to be this way," responded Weider.

Though Weider said he disagreed with the histori-

cal practice of road agents utilizing their own equipment and businesses to complete projects for the town, Oleson said it was the way the system was structured, and if the selectmen wanted that to change, they needed to hire more people and buy more equipment.

Both Landau and Cannon agreed that \$5,000 was too low for a bid threshold for road work and that they'd like to raise it at a later date.

The board agreed to allow Oleson to do the work on Pheasant Run, but urged him to come in under \$5,000.

"I think that's a fair compromise," said Cannon.

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

American Girl Party

An American Girl Party takes place at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., on Thursday, June 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. American Girl fans ages 6 to 12 are invited to attend this party, hosted by Mrs. Raven. R.S.V.P. is required by Friday, June 22, by calling 887-3404 or registering in person at the library.

Summer Hours

Chester Congregational and Baptist Church summer Family Worship will begin at 9 a.m. from June 24 until Sunday, Sept. 2. Communion is received the first Sunday of the month. For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net. The church is located in the center of Chester at 4 Chester St.

Monster Bash

The Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., hosts a Monster Bash on Monday, June 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., featuring Halloween in June. Come dressed as a monster and enter the monster costume contest. All ages are invited. R.S.V.P. is required by June 22 by calling 887-3404 or registering in person at the library.

PJs Storytimes

PJs Storytimes at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., takes place Thursdays, June 28, July 5, July 19, Aug. 2, and Aug. 9, all at 7 p.m. For more information, call the library at 887-3404.

Arts Contest

Chester Public Library holds a Visual/Literary Arts Contest for ages 8 to 15 in the following categories: drawing, photography, and poetry. Entries must be received by Friday, Aug. 3. The Contest Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, Aug. 16, during the Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the library at 887-3404.

Movie Night

A Chester Community Movie Night takes place Friday, June 22, at 7 p.m. at the Chester soccer fields, weather permitting, or inside Stevens Memorial Hall in inclement weather. The movie is "Kung Fu Panda." Popcorn will be provided; bring a blanket or lawn chair. The program is sponsored by Livestone Church of Chester.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Fellowship Bible Church, 48 Rod & Gun Club Road, with the theme "Jesus Is the Treasure," takes place July 9 through 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The program is for ages 4 through kids finishing sixth grade. A closing carnival for the whole family takes place the evening of July 13. For more information, call 887-2599.

Scout Yard Sale

Chester Boy Scout Troop 163 holds its annual Yard Sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 23, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Wason Pond Recreation Area on Route 102. To donate items (no clothing, air conditioners, computers or TVs), call Todd Renaud at 300-7850 and leave a message or email ChesterScoutYardSale@gmail.com.

Farmers' Market, Car Night

Chester Congregational & Baptist Church, 4 Chester St., will host a Farmers' Market on the following Thursdays - June 21, July 19 and Aug. 16 - from 5 to 8 p.m. (rain dates are June 28, July 26 and Aug. 23). The dates coincide with Chester's Cruisin' Car Night, which takes place directly across the street from the church and offers classic cars, food, ice cream, raffles and music. For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net. The Chester Historical Society will be open the same nights as the Farmers Markets and car shows, and the antique mail wagon will be on display outdoors. Scarecrows can be picked up at this

time.

Pokemon Party

The Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., hosts a free Pokémon Party on Thursday, June 21, from 2 to 3 p.m., with trivia and a chance to trade and duel with Pokémon fans. For more information, call 887-3404.

Storytimes

The Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., offers free Storytimes with stories and crafts every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. with Mrs. Emily. For more information, call 887-3404.

Preschool Lottery

The Chester School District offers a multi-aged preschool program for the 2012-2013 school year, with programming to typically developing students at a tuition rate. The program begins Sept. 4 and ends on the last day of school, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Students who are 3 or 4 years of age by Sept. 30, 2012 are eligible. For typically developing students, two options are offered - Tuesdays through Thursdays for \$2,100, and Tuesdays through Fridays for \$2,800. The district has a lottery for the eligible spots and expects to have four slots for 3-year-olds and four for 4-year-olds. To be part of the lottery, contact the school at 887-3621, ext. 146 with name, child's name and date of birth, and preference for three or four days. Lottery deadline is June 29.

Co-ed Volleyball

Chester Recreation is offering free adult co-ed pickup volleyball on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Chester Multi-purpose room. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 887-5773 or email: sharon@chesternhrec.org

Scarecrow Pick Up

The Scarecrows of Chester have arrived at the Historical Society Museum. They have been cut out by Sylvia Anderson; painted by Jackie Brown, Judy Pepper and Alexandra Hadik; sewn and ironed by Diane Methot; turned inside out by Jean Methot and have



Top of their Class

Two of the 726 Pinkerton Academy graduates of the Class of 2012 are honored at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, where commencement ceremonies took place Monday afternoon. Renee Hensiek is Valedictorian of her class, and John Keisling Jr. is Salutatorian. Both are from Hampstead. The Class of 2012 received a record-breaking amount of scholarship awards, at \$8.3 million.

Photo by Chris Paul

had their bodies made by Don Brown. Pick up starts when the museum is open on the second Saturday of June, July and August from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. September will be the month to construct the characters to be on display by Oct. 1. If the pickup time is not convenient, call Jackie Brown at 887-3842 to arrange a time or to order for 2013. This is a fund raiser for the Chester Historical Society.

HAMPSTEAD

Shredding

The Hampstead Firemen's Association is hosting a Community Shredding Event open to anyone. The event is sponsored by TD Bank and will take place Saturday, June 23, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Town Hall parking lot. Paper will be destroyed on site. Donations to the Hampstead Firemen's Association will be accepted.

Independence Day Festival

The Hampstead Independence Day Festival takes place Saturday, June 30, with a rain date of Sunday, July 1, on the Town Green. Kids' games, carnival booths, fireworks and food are featured. The Civic Club Scholarship Award winners and the new Miss Hampstead are announced, and a DJ will entertain from 5 p.m. until

the 9:30 p.m. fireworks. The frog jumping contest is at 3 p.m., children's games at 4 p.m., midway games at 5 p.m., singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" at 6:30 p.m., scholarship awards at 6:45 p.m., and Miss Hampstead contest at 7 p.m.

Trash Regulations

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee holds an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, at Town Hall to answer questions from the public and to provide information on new curbside trash pick-up regulations that take effect July 1.

Tropical Day

The first family event of the Hampstead Public Library's Summer Reading Program is "Dreaming of a Tropical Paradise" on Thursday, June 21, from 2 to 4 p.m., with participants learning to hula dance with the Ohana Hula School, making a shell necklace, and playing beach volleyball. Those attending should be prepared to get wet.

Middle School Book Group

The Hampstead Public Library's summer edition of the Middle School Book Group, "Pizza & Pages," will have its first meeting on Thursday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. All students who will be attending the Middle School in the fall are wel-

come to participate. Kids will be able to choose the books they want to read. Sign up at the library's front desk, or email pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us.

Computer Tutor

The Hampstead Public Library is looking for a high school student with a background in computers and technology who would like to earn community service hours by helping adults with computer-related issues. The position of computer tutor is non-paid. For more information, contact library director Debra Hiatt at 329-6411.

Art Exhibit

The June art display in the Hampstead Public Library's second floor meeting room is "Ancient Visions, New Canvases," oil paintings by George Chen.

Thrift Shop

The Hollyhock Thrift Shop's half-price sale of spring clothing is June 23, 26 and 30. The shop, located at the Hampstead Public Library, will then be closed for restocking until Tuesday, July 10. The Hollyhock Thrift Shop has been the primary fund raising vehicle for the Friends of the Library since its inception. The money raised provides items for the library. Many of the computers, CDs, DVDs,

Happenings

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museum passes and the automated electronic defibrillator have been funded by the Friends of the Library.

Library Movie

On Wednesday, June 27, at 7 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library will show the movie "Double Indemnity," as the first offering in the library's summer Film Noir

series. Light refreshments will be served.

Reach for the Stars

The Hampstead Public Library presents "Reach for the Stars" on Wednesday, June 27. From 2 to 3 p.m., Native American tales about the night sky will be told, and a craft - creating a constellation projector and making a northern lights mural and a glow-in-the-dark comet - will be taught.

Magic Performance

On Thursday, June 28, at 10:30 a.m., the Hampstead Public Library takes the Summer Reading Program to Hampstead Central School with a performance by magician Norman Ng. The Hampstead Recreation Department helped with sponsorship of this event.

Book, Video Sale

A Used Book, Record

and Video Sale will be held rain or shine Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. Paperback books, children's books and music cassettes are 50 cents each or 12 for \$5; hardcover books, VHS tapes, records and books on cassette are \$1 each or six for \$5; and DVDs are \$1 each. The church

is an interdenominational Christian fellowship serving the community since 1897, and proceeds benefit the Operating Fund. For more information, call 378-0683.

Spaghetti Supper

A Spaghetti Supper will be held Saturday, June 23, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. The menu will be

spaghetti, Italian meatballs and sauce, salad, rolls, assorted desserts, and beverages. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free for preschoolers. The church is chair-lift accessible. Take-out meals are available. Proceeds benefit the Operating Fund of this historic church. For more information, call 378-0683.

Democrats

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Happenings

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The Hampstead Democrats meet from 6 to 8 p.m. June 25 at the Hampstead Library. Guest speaker will be Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jackie Cilley of Barrington, who previously served one term as a State Representative and two terms as a State Senator.

Fall Soccer

The Hampstead Civic Club fall soccer registration can be completed online at www.hampsteadcivicclub.com by clicking on Fall Soccer to be redirected to the registration website. Registration deadline is midnight Saturday, June 30. The program is open to Hampstead residents between the ages of 4 and 17 as of Sept. 30, 2012. Cost is \$40 for U6 and U8, \$50 for U10 and up, with a \$10 discount for three or more children. For questions, email: Hampstead-CivicSoccer@comcast.net.

Golf Tourney

The Hampstead Civic Club Golf Tournament takes place Friday, Aug. 10, at Windham Country Club, with registration from 6 to 7 a.m., and a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start, with scramble format. The entry fee of \$125 per player includes greens fees, cart, and post-golf dinner. Visit www.Hampstead-CivicClub.com for registration. Call Ken Fure at 339-1116 with questions.

Island Pond Baptist

Island Pond Baptist Church, 26 North Salem Road, holds Vacation Bible School (VBS), "Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages!" from June 25-29 from 9 a.m. to noon. Games, crafts, snacks, lessons, and music are featured. All kids ages 4 through sixth grade are welcome to this free program. To register, visit www.island-pondbc.org and click on Vacation Bible School, or call the church office at 329-5959. VBS Family Fun Night is Thursday, June 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., featuring snacks and inflatables.

Needlework Social

Hampstead Public Library hosts a Needlework

Social on Friday, June 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. No sign-up is necessary. Bring a current project and share your interest with others in a relaxed setting.

Adult Summer Reading

The Hampstead Public Library will offer a summer reading program for adults starting June 25, with the theme of "Between the Covers." The library will also have a Film Noir movie festival, featuring classics from the genre. By checking out materials or coming to the library for events, adults will be eligible to win prizes that include books and gift cards. No registration or tracking of reading time is necessary to participate.

Summerfest Crafters

Crafters and artists are sought for the St. Anne Summerfest, to be held Saturday, July 28, on the Hampstead Town Green. Booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other activities planned for the day include a road race, vintage car show, games for all ages, food and bake sales, bounce tent, obstacle course, live entertainment, silent auction, and raffles. Spaces are 10-by-10-feet (no chairs or tables provided) and cost \$40 for an uncovered space and \$50 for a covered space. More information and an application are at www.saintannechurchnh.org (click on "Summerfest" at the top, then "Craft and Art Booths"), or contact Claire Manes at 642-3250 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Red Sox Tickets

Hampstead's Baseball and Softball Association is selling raffle tickets at one for \$10 or three for \$20 for four tickets to the Red Sox vs. Yankees game July 8 in section 165 row MM. The winner will be picked at the end of the association's season. Contact Mike Fairbank at mpmbfairbank@msn.com or 617-462-6827 for tickets. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the improvements at the fields and a new scoreboard at Holiday Lane.

Compost Bins

The Hampstead Recycling and Solid Waste Committee has again obtained compost

bins for residents. The compost bins are available at the Town Office at a cost of \$47. For more information, contact Tina Harrington at 329-4100, ext. zero.

SANDOWN

Summer Zumba

Sandown Recreation presents a nine-week Zumba session Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility. Sign up for all nine classes or buy a pre-paid punch card to use for any of the classes in the summer session. Classes are June 26 through Aug. 28, with no class on July 3. Call the recreation office at 887-1872. Visit www.sandown.us for program information and registration form.

Explorer Open House

The Police and Fire/Rescue Explorer Posts will hold an open house at the fire/police station on July 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to talk with persons interested in the groups. Both Explorer Posts are always looking for new members. The Explorer Program is a way to learn about careers in a hands-on way, and police officers and firefighter/EMTs laud it as a way to secure a foot in the door of a department. The program is open to all area residents aged 14 to 20.

Lions Yard Sale

The Sandown Lions Club is accepting donations for its 18th annual Yard Sale/Flea Market, set for June 30, rain or shine, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sandown Town Hall. A portion of the proceeds will be used for a scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior from Sandown and/or Danville for the 2012-2013 school

year. To make donations, call project chairman Kathi Soule at 974-0547. Pickup can be arranged. No computers, peripherals, TVs or clothing can be accepted.

Chess Club

The Sandown Public Library Chess Club with chess master Monty Cole meets Thursday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome to play. No experience is needed.

Garden Pot Recycling

The Sandown Garden Club will hold a Pot Recycling Day on Saturday, June 23, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Depot off Main Street. Anyone with used flower pots is invited to drop them off. The pots will be cleaned and stored for next year's Garden Club Plant Sale. The Club is currently making plans for the upcoming Sandown Old Home Days in August. New members are always welcome. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center on Pheasant Run Drive. For more information, call Sue at 887-6784, or visit www.sandown-gardenclub.org.

REGIONAL

Tennis Challenge

Best Buddies New Hampshire Tennis Challenge, a tennis tournament in the tradition of the retired Dana Ball Tournament, will be held at Pinkerton Academy July 26-29. All proceeds benefit Best Buddies NH. Featured events include men's singles and doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles and junior singles. A free retro racket rally, raffles, food and an adaptive tennis clinic for intellectually disabled youth

and their families are also planned. For more information and registration, visit www.bestbuddiesnh.tennis.com or e-mail jane83@comcast.net.

Ladies Self-Protection

Tim Barchard's Professional Martial Arts Academy sponsors a ladies self-protection course at no charge on Thursday, July 26, from 8 to 8:45 p.m. at the Academy, 15 East Broadway, Derry. The seminar will equip ladies with basic street protection, regardless of athletic ability. Situational awareness, street wise precautions, the human's physical weak spot, releasing yourself from an attacker's grasp and blocking and striking techniques will be taught. Call 434-7995 to reserve a spot.

Relay for Life

The Relay for Life of Greater Derry and Londonderry begins Friday, June 22, at 6 p.m. and continues until Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m. at the Pinkerton Academy Track in Derry. The towns of Derry, Londonderry, Hampstead, Chester, Sandown, Plaistow, Atkinson, Danville and Windham have both residents and businesses involved in the Relay. The event celebrates the lives of people who have battled cancer, remembers loved ones

who lost their cancer battles, and fights back against the disease. For information, contact Brigit Ryan-Souza at 471-4113 or derry_relay@cancer.org or visit www.relayforlife.org/derryandlondonderry-nh.

Youth Media Camp

The Community Alliance for Teen Safety (CATS), in partnership with Derry Community Television, offers a free summer media camp for youth July 30 through Aug. 3 at the Derry CTV studio in the Derry Municipal Center, 14 Manning St., for students entering grades 7 through 11 in Derry, Chester or Hampstead. Pre-registration is required by visiting www.cat-snh.org or calling CATS at 434-5251. A waiting list will be created. Parents must complete a parental permission form. Students will learn all aspects of television production, including audio, lighting, hosting, cameras, producing, directing, and graphic design and editing. The camp will conclude with a full-scale TV production, where all the youth will assume the major roles of a real production crew. The camp will end with a presentation and reception for parents Friday evening, Aug. 3. Lunch is provided free on full instruction days.

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